



**CHIEF JUSTICE
MARILYN J. KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2013

Before taking the bench, Chief Justice Marilyn J. Kelly was a courtroom attorney for 17 years in Michigan. Her practice was diverse in subject matter and geographic area. In 1988, she was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals for a six-year term and reelected in 1994. She was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court for an eight-year term in 1996, and reelected in 2004 for an eight-year term which expires January 1, 2013.

Chief Justice Kelly was raised in Detroit and graduated from Mackenzie High School. She earned a B.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. After a year's graduate study at LaSorbonne, University of Paris, France, she received her master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. She taught French language and literature in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, at Albion College and Eastern Michigan University before attending law school at Wayne State University. She earned a law degree with honors and serves the law school now on its Board of Visitors.

Chief Justice Kelly is a member of the Oakland County Bar Association, where she has been active as Chair of the Family Law Committee and Committee Co-Chair of the President's Task Force on Improved Dispute Resolution. She has been an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and a panel member of the State Attorney Discipline Board. She is editor of the 6th Edition of *Michigan Family Law* published by ICLE. In 2003, Chief Justice Kelly became a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

She was elected statewide to the Michigan State Board of Education in 1964 and again in 1968, and served 12 years on the Board, the last two as its President. She has been President, in addition, of the Women's Bar Association and of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. She has been a member of the State Bar Representative Assembly and the Family Law Council for the State Bar of Michigan. From 1999 through 2003, Chief Justice Kelly was Co-Chair of the Open Justice Commission, an organization of the State Bar devoted to making justice available to all, regardless of factors like race, color, creed or disability. Chief Justice Kelly is on the governing board of the National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Justice Kelly's community activities have included serving as a board member of Channel 56-Public Television in Detroit, a board member of the Women's Survival Center in Pontiac, Vice President of the Board of the Detroit Institute of Technology, Development Committee member of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, and member of the citizens advisory committee of the Detroit Public Schools, Wayne County Community College and Oakland County Community College. Wayne State University presented Chief Justice Kelly its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

Chief Justice Kelly have been awarded honorary doctor of law degrees by Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University College of Law, and Wayne State University Law School. She was named one of Michigan's 95 most powerful women by *Corp!* magazine and is the recipient of the Michigan Education Association's Distinguished Service Award. In June 2003, Chief Justice Kelly received the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award from the State of Israel Bonds Attorney Division. The State Bar of Michigan presented Chief Justice Kelly with its Michael Franck Award for her outstanding contribution to the legal profession at its annual meeting in September 2003. In 2005, she was honored by Wayne State University as one of the university's outstanding alumni. In 2009, she received the Guardian of Justice Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in recognition of her outstanding commitment and dedication to upholding civil rights.

¹ Source for biographies: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>